

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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DRAFTED BY ARA- LA/ PAN - S. MOREY BELL: GFH

4/25/73 EXT 2 O694

APPROVED BY ARA - ROUERT A. HURWITCH

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P R 252247 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 078231

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJ: RECENT PANAMANIAN ALLEGATIONS RESPECTING SENIOR

USG REPRESENTATIVES

REF: PANAMA 22 O6

1. COUNTRY DIRECTOR ASKED AMBASSADOR GONZALEZ REVILLA TO CALL APRIL 24 TO ADVISE HIM DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION HAD BEEN DRAWN TO RADIO LIBERTAD'S APRIL 21 BROADCAST WHICH CARRIED ALLEGATIONS BY JOAQUIN BELENO IN " EL PANAMA AMERICACOLUMN TO EFFECT THAT U. S. PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY TO OCTOBER 11 INAUGURAL CEREMONIES HAD ATTEMPTED TO " SUBORN/ FOREIGN MINISTER TACK.

2. HAD THOSE ALLEGATIONS APPEARED IN IRRESPONSIBLE PRESS, OR EMANATED FROM SOURCES DEDICATED TO DESTROYING FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND PANAMA, DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED THEM FOR WHAT THEY WERE AND ALLOWED THEM TO PASS. BUT SINCE IT IS WIDELY RECOGNIZED THAT THERE ARE DEFINITE PRIVATE IF NOT PUBLIC CONNECTIONS BETWEEN RADIO LIBERTAD AND INFLUENTIAL

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GOVERNMENTAL PERSONNAGES, DEPARTMENT COULD NOT IGNORE THEM.

3. AS AMBASSADOR GONZALEZ WOULD SURELY APPRECIATE, THE ALLEGATIONS WERE ABSURD AND REPREHENSIBLE. MOREOVER,

COUNTRY DIRECTOR EXPLAINED, WHEN WE PUT THEM TOGETHER WITH THE UNPLEASANT STATEMENTS RECENTLY MADE IN PANAMA WITH RESPECT TO AMBASSADOR SCALI AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, TO AN ARA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, WE HAD TO WONDER WHETHER THERE EXISTS A CONCERTED CAMPAIGN TO DEFAME SENIOR UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES. WE DID NOT WISH TO REACH SUCH A CONCLUSION BUT FRANKLY IT WAS BECOMING MORE DIFFICULT TO FEEL THAT PANAMA TRULY WISHES FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH U. S.

3. GONZALEZ, NOTABLY TAKEN ABACK, SAID THAT THE ALLEGATIONS AND OTHER RECENT STATEMENTS WERE " VERY UGLY", AND THAT HE WOULD REPORT " THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S LEGITIMATE CONCERN" AT THEM TO PANAMA CITY PROMPTLY. HE DENIED THAT THEY CONSTITUTE " ANY PATTERN OF HOSTILITY" AND ATTRIBUTED THEM SOLELY TO THE INEXPERTISE AND FLAMBOYANCE OF PANAMA'S MEDIA.

4. GONZALEZ REPORTED APRIL 25 THAT HE HAD TELEPHONED FOREIGN MINISTER TACK WHO " TOLD ME TO ASSURE DEPARTMENT THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT THE ALLEGATIONS, THAT HE ALSO FOUND THEM UGLY, THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA DOES NOT USE SUCH METHODOLOGY, AND THAT THIS MATTER WOULD BE INVESTIGATED." GONZALEZ ADDED THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT MAY GIVE TACK LEVERAGE, LONG NEEDED, TO TRY TO MODERATE THE STRIDENCY OF RADIO LIBERTAD.

ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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